

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**

**Report of Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held at Áras an Chontae  
on the Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

**I LATHAIR:-**

**Baill:** Cllr. J. McDonagh (Chairperson)  
Cllr. J. Cuddy  
Cllr. L. Carroll  
Cllr. M. Noone

**Oifigigh:** Mr. A. Comer, Senior Executive Officer, Planning &  
Sustainable Development Unit  
Mr. Frank Gilmore, Director of Services, Roads &  
Transportation Unit  
Mr. Michael Timmins, Senior Engineer, NRDO  
Mr. Fran McEvoy, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads &  
Transportation Unit  
Mr. E. Gallagher, Executive Engineer, Tuam, Area  
Office  
Mr. J. Coyle, Executive Engineer, Oranmore Area  
Office  
Ms. Liadhan Keady, Assistant Staff Officer, Planning &  
Sustainable Development Unit

**RPS Consultants:** Mr. Gerry Carty  
Mr. Cian McGuinness

The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed the representatives from RPS.

**1. Minutes of Meeting dated 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2011**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2011 were proposed for adoption by Cllr. Carroll, and seconded by Cllr. Noone.

**Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

## **2. Presentation by RPS Consulting Engineers on the route options for the proposed N17 Baile Chláir Inner Relief Road**

Mr. Carty presented a map indicating the proposed routes for the relief road. There were 4 options and he outlined all the issues including river crossings, SAC and the length of each option. Mr. Carty explained that in the current County Development Plan there is a route identified to the South East of Claregalway with an approximate length of 5km, coming out from the City, which has been included on this map along with one variation, due to trying to ensure that the proposed route passes through as little of the SAC as possible, which allows for 2 possible routes. The other 2 possible routes are identified on the North West of Claregalway coming from the City which are approximately 1.5-2km in length and cross over the SAC at its narrowest point along the river.

Mr. Carty stated that while all routes were open to debate the 2 possible routes identified to the North West had the least constraints due to the SAC, however the project was still a work in progress and more information would be available by the time the public consultation takes place on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

The Chairperson enquired as to which route was the best route. In response, Mr. McEvoy stated that there was a lot of assessment needed with regard to the land required, CPO requirements, public consultation feedback etc, before that could be determined.

Cllr. Cuddy suggested that these maps be made available to the public prior to the consultation so that they would have time to review same. In response, Mr. McEvoy stated that this is not part of normal procedure as it could cause greater confusion but that on the day of the public consultation the Consultants from RPS and the Engineers from Galway County Council would be available to the public for a number of hours to discuss the maps. In addition Mr. Timmins stated that it would be possible to make the maps available for public display for a period once the consultation had taken place and submissions could be accepted for 2 weeks after that date.

Cllr. Noone enquired as to what a realistic timescale for completion of the project was. In response, Mr. Carty stated that the stages included; Formal Approval of a Route, CPO which may require an Oral Hearing and finally detailed design and guarantee of funding before any works could commence. Mr. McEvoy added that it could take approximately 1.5-2 years to get to the Oral Hearing stage. Mr. Timmins commented that should everything go to plan it would take 3 years to complete the project.

Cllr. Noone requested an update regarding the M18 Gort to Tuam road. In response, Mr. Timmins stated that this project was proceeding however contractors are experiencing funding difficulties at present.

After a discussion regarding the proposed routes Cllr. Cuddy asked whether Galway County Council were in fact supporting the idea of a relief road for Claregalway. In response, Mr. Gilmore stated that yes Galway County Council were supporting the relief road and in his opinion it was vital that Strategic Plans for routes were in place so that when the funding became available the correct solution would have been identified and would be ready to be put in place. Cllr. Carroll commented that once a project went to public consultation people then expected it to go ahead. In response, Mr. Gilmore stated that it was up to Galway County Council to ensure that the public realized that at this stage it was about going through the statutory processes so that when funding becomes available things can progress.

Cllr. Noone requested an update regarding the OPW plans in relation to the widening of the Clare River. In response, Mr. Carty stated that a Public Consultation would take place regarding this on the 8<sup>th</sup> June. Mr. Gilmore further added that RPS was responsible for both projects so there would be a direct link between the bridge and the proposed route.

The Chairman thanked all the representatives involved.

### **3. AOB**

Cllr. Carroll stated that at a recent meeting of the Council, Mr. Gilmore informed the members that an advertisement would be placed in the press seeking letters of intention from perspective contractors in relation to the upkeep of the roundabouts in the county, and to date this has not happened. After a brief discussion regarding this Mr. Gallagher informed the meeting that he would refer back to Cllr. Carroll with an update on this matter within the week.

Cllr. Carroll raised the issue regarding the lack of tourist signage on the M6 directing road users to the amenities available in Oranmore. He further added that when he spoke to the manufacturers of these signs, that the signs have been paid for but the problems seems to be getting them erected. In response, Mr. Comer stated that Mr. Kevin Kelly, Director of Services, Planning and Sustainable Development Unit, had been looking at this under the SPC and he would refer to him for an update on same.

Cllr. Cuddy stated that Mr. Gilmore had given him an undertaking that the speed limits review would take place by October and therefore we would need to hold a meeting of the Electoral Area in the coming

months with this issue as an agenda item. In response, Mr. Gallagher stated that they had not received any notification from Mr. Gilmore regarding this and until such time they could not progress same.

Cllr. Cuddy requested an update regarding the Oranmore Traffic Management Plan which had been decided on in September of last year. In response, Mr. Coyle stated that the agreed plans had been forwarded to Ms. Rose Gaughran, SSO Roads & Transportation Unit, who was in the process of putting the plan through the public display process. Mr. Gallagher stated he would request that Ms. Gaughran process this plan as soon as possible.

Cllr. Noone enquired as to when the works at both Cregmore Cross and Corrandulla Cross would commence. In response, Mr. Coyle stated that once the roads programme was finalised work would commence at Cregmore Cross. Mr. Gallagher added that the programme should be complete by late June early July but that all accident funded projects would have to be pushed back as they were not weather dependent. Mr. Coyle stated that although they have made numerous requests to the NRA for €100,000, which is the amount needed to bring Cregmore Cross up to standard, they have only been allocated €40,000. In addition, Mr. Gallagher stated it was yet to be decided whether works would be cut-back and a review of the project would be carried out to decide what works would be undertaken. Cllr. Noone stated that all the works required at this junction were extremely important and should never be sacrificed and stated he would bring the matter to the attention of our TD's.

The Chairperson requested an update regarding outstanding NOM requests from 2009 and enquired as to whether it would be possible for him to allocate NOM monies from 2011 to providing lights from the Lackagh Village to the Community Centre. In response, Mr. Coyle stated that there are now 3 outstanding requests from 2009 and once the roads programme is complete these would be completed. Mr. Gallagher stated that he would look into the Chairpersons request regarding lighting.

The Chairperson asked whether the works required on the Mira to Kilshchee road had been included on any programme. In response, Mr. Coyle stated that it has been included under the Road Reconstruction Programme 2012.

Cllr. Cuddy stated that the road markings at both Deerpark and outside the Lakeview Estate in Claregalway were very poor and needed to be looked at. Mr. Coyle stated he would follow up on this.

Cllr. Cuddy and Cllr. Noone both requested that the works due to be carried out at the Claregalway School would be done during the summer

holidays. In response Mr. Gallagher stated he would look into the possibility of this and refer back to the members.

Cllr. Cuddy highlighted the reduction of staff in the Lackagh Area Office which was having a detrimental affect on the services being provided. In response, Mr. Gallagher stated that this problem has been brought to the DOS attention and he understands that another Engineer will be assigned to the Oranmore area.

The Chairperson thanked all the members and wished Mr. Diarmuid Croghan, SE every success in his new post.

### **Criochnaigh an Chruinniu Ansin**